AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS[1]

1. (Currently Amended) A <u>virtual terminal configuring</u> method, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

(a) managing terminal management information ~~concerning~~ <u>associated with</u> a plurality of communication terminals of a user;

(b) identifying, when a call addressed to said user is initiated <u>by an initiating communication terminal,</u> ~~one or more~~ <u>those communication</u> terminals <u>of the plurality of communication terminals</u> that can accept said call by referring to <u>(1)</u> an ability needed for a <u>type of</u> communication involved in said call, and <u>(2)</u> the terminal management information <u>associated with</u> ~~concerning~~ said plurality of communication terminals managed ~~by~~ <u>in</u> said step (a); and

(c) separating information involved in ~~the~~ <u>said</u> call into <u>respective</u> items of information to be sent to ~~said~~ <u>the respective</u> ~~one or more~~ <u>communication</u> terminals identified ~~by~~ <u>in</u> said step (b), and combining <u>respective</u> items of information <u>received</u> from ~~said one or more~~ <u>the respective communication</u> terminals identified ~~by~~ <u>in</u> said step (b) into information to be sent to ~~one of the plurality of~~ <u>said initiating</u> communication ~~terminals~~ <u>terminal</u> that initiates said call,

a virtual terminal being formed by said ~~one or more~~ <u>communication</u> terminals identified ~~by~~ <u>in</u> said step (b), ~~and~~ <u>the virtual terminal</u> communicating with said ~~one of the plurality of~~ <u>initiating</u> communication ~~terminals~~ <u>terminal.</u>

2. (Currently Amended) The <u>virtual terminal configuring</u> method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of:~~<u>:</u>

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[1] This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

(d) converting the <u>respective</u> items of information separated ~~by~~ <u>in</u> said step ~~(b) using~~ ~~an information coding scheme conforming to said one of the plurality of terminals~~ <u>(c)</u> into <u>corresponding items of information coded according to respective</u> ~~those using~~ information coding schemes employed in ~~said one or more~~ <u>the respective</u> communication terminals ~~and~~ ~~vice versa~~ <u>identified in said step (b)</u>.

3. (Currently Amended) The <u>virtual terminal configuring</u> method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the terminal management information managed ~~by~~ <u>in</u> said step (a) includes predetermined communication abilities of the plurality of communication terminals.

4. (Currently Amended) A <u>virtual terminal configuring device,</u> comprising:

a first part ~~managing~~ <u>configured to manage</u> terminal management information concerning a plurality of communication terminals of a user;

a second part ~~identifying~~ <u>configured to identify,</u> when a call addressed to said user is initiated <u>by an initiating communication terminal,</u> ~~one or more~~ those communication terminals <u>of the plurality of communication terminals</u> that can accept said call by referring to <u>(1)</u> an ability needed for a communication involved in said call, and <u>(2)</u> the terminal management information concerning said plurality of communication terminals managed by said first part; and

a third part ~~separating~~ <u>configured to separate</u> information involved in ~~the~~ <u>said</u> call into <u>respective</u> items of information to be sent to ~~said one or more~~ <u>the respective communication</u> terminals identified by said second part, and ~~combining~~ <u>to combine respective</u> items of information <u>received</u> from ~~said one or more~~ <u>the respective communication</u> terminals identified by said second part into information to be sent ~~to one of the plurality of~~ <u>to said</u> <u>initiating</u> communication ~~terminals~~ <u>terminal</u> that initiates said call,

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a virtual terminal being formed by said ~~one or more~~ communication terminals

identified by said second part, ~~and~~ the virtual terminal communicating with said ~~one of the~~

~~plurality of~~ initiating communication ~~terminals~~ terminal.

5. (Currently Amended) The virtual terminal configuring device as claimed in claim

4, further comprising:

a fourth part ~~converting~~ configured to convert the respective items of information

separated by said ~~second~~ third part ~~using an information coding scheme conforming to said~~

~~one of the plurality of communication terminals~~ into corresponding items of information

coded according to respective ~~those using~~ information coding schemes employed in ~~said one~~

~~or more~~ the respective communication terminals identified by said second part ~~and vice versa~~.

6. (Original) The virtual terminal configuring device as claimed in claim 4, wherein

the terminal management information managed by said first part includes predetermined

communication abilities of the plurality of communication terminals.

7. (Currently Amended) The virtual terminal configuring device as claimed in claim

4, wherein said third part compresses and expands the respective items of information in

accordance with communication abilities of ~~said one or more~~ the respective communication

terminals identified by said second part.

8. (Currently Amended) The virtual terminal configuring device as claimed in claim

4, wherein said third part filters the respective items of information in accordance with

communication abilities of ~~said one or more~~ the respective communication terminals

identified by said second part.

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9. (Currently Amended) A communication system, comprising:

a plurality of communication terminals ~~of users~~; and

a virtual terminal configuring device to which the plurality of communication terminals are coupled,

said virtual terminal configuring device comprising:

a first part ~~managing~~ configured to manage terminal management information concerning said plurality of communication terminals;

a second part ~~identifying~~ configured to identify, when a call addressed to a first ~~one of the users~~ user is initiated, ~~one or more~~ those communication terminals that can accept said call by referring to (1) an ability needed for a communication involved in said call, and (2) the terminal management information concerning the communication terminals; and

a third part ~~separating~~ configured to separate information involved in ~~the~~ said call into respective items of information to be sent to ~~said one or more~~ the respective communication terminals identified by said second part and ~~combining~~ to combine respective items of information received from ~~said one or more~~ the respective communication terminals identified by said second part into information to be sent to ~~one of the plurality of~~ a communication ~~terminals~~ terminal associated with a second user ~~of a second one of the users~~ that initiates said call,

a virtual terminal of the first user being formed by said ~~one or more~~ communication terminals identified by said second part so that said virtual terminal ~~of the first one of the users~~ and said ~~one of the~~ communication ~~terminals of~~ terminal associated with the second user ~~can communicate~~ are configured to communicate with each other.

10. (Original) The communication system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the plurality of communication terminals include communication terminals coupled to the virtual terminal configuring device via a radio communication interface.

11. (Original) The communication system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the plurality of communication terminals include communication terminals coupled to the virtual terminal configuring device via a network.

12. (Currently Amended) A virtual terminal configuring device, comprising:

a virtual terminal function unit ~~forming~~ configured to form a virtual terminal including communication terminals of a first user coupled to said virtual terminal configuring device, said virtual terminal ~~being capable of communicating~~ configured to communicate with a communication terminal of a second user having a communication protocol different from communication protocols of said communication terminals of the first user~~, and~~

wherein said virtual terminal function unit ~~including a part separating~~ includes a part configured to separate information from the communication terminal of the second user into items of information respectively conforming to the respective communication protocols of the communication terminals forming the virtual terminal, and ~~combining~~ to combine items of information from the communication terminals forming the virtual terminal into information conforming to the communication protocol of the communication terminal of the second user by referring to terminal management information concerning the communication terminals of the first and second users.

13. (New) A virtual terminal configuring method, comprising:

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managing terminal management information related to a plurality of communication

terminals of a user;

identifying, when a cell addressed to said user is initiated, predetermined

communication terminals capable of accepting said call based on (1) an ability required for a

communication involved in said call, and (2) the terminal management information related to

said plurality of communication terminals that are managed; and

separating information involved in said call into items of information to be sent

distributively to said predetermined communication terminals, and combining items of

information from said predetermined communication terminals into information that is to be

sent to one of the plurality of communication terminals that initiates said call,

a virtual terminal being formed by said predetermined communication terminals that

communicate with said one of the plurality of communication terminals.

14. (New) The virtual terminal configuring method as claimed in claim 13, further

comprising:

converting the separated items of information according to an information coding

scheme conforming to said one of the plurality of communication terminals, into items of

information, using information coding schemes employed in said predetermined

communication terminals.

15. (New) A virtual terminal configuring device configured to couple to a plurality

of communication terminals of a user, comprising:

a terminal management unit having a first part configured to manage terminal

management information related to the plurality of communication terminals, and a second

part to identify, when a call addressed to said user is initiated, predetermined communication

terminals configured to accept said call based on (1) an ability required for a communication involved in said call, and (2) the terminal management information related to said plurality of communication terminals that are managed;

a separating unit configured to separate information involved in said call into items of information to be sent to said predetermined communication terminals; and

a combining unit configured to combine items of information from said predetermined communication terminals into information that is to be sent to one of the plurality of communication terminals that initiates said call,

wherein a virtual terminal is formed by said predetermined communication terminals that communicates with said one of the plurality of communication terminals.

16. (New) The virtual terminal configuring device as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:

a converting section configured to convert the separated items of information according to an information coding scheme conforming to said one of the plurality of communication terminals, into items of information, using information coding schemes employed in said predetermined communication terminals.

17. (New) A virtual terminal configuring device comprising:

a virtual terminal function unit configured to form a virtual terminal including communication terminals of a first user coupled to said virtual terminal configuring device, said virtual terminal configured to communicate with a communication terminal of a second user having a communication protocol different from communication protocols of said communication terminals of the first user,

said virtual terminal function unit comprising:

a separating unit configured to separate information from the communication

terminal of the second user into items of information respectively conforming to the

communication protocols of the communication terminals forming the virtual

terminal; and

a combining unit configured to combine items of information from the

communication terminals forming the virtual terminal into information conforming to

the communication protocol of the communication terminal of the second user based

on terminal management information related to the communication terminals of the

first and second users.